AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims. Only those claims being amended herein show their changes in highlighted form, where insertions appear as underlined text (e.g., insertions), while deletions appear as strikethrough text (e.g., ~~deletions~~) or enclosed in double brackets (e.g., [[deletion]]).

1. (Currently Amended) An appliance for administering a reduced pressure treatment to a wound, comprising:

~~(a)~~ a cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and adapted to maintain reduced pressure ~~at the site of~~ between the cover and the wound; and

~~(b) a seal adapted to seal the cover to tissue surrounding the wound;~~

~~(c) reduced pressure supply means for connection to a source of suction, the reduced pressure supply means cooperating with the cover to supply the reduced pressure beneath the cover; and~~

~~(d)~~ an absorbable matrix adapted to encourage growth of the tissue in the area of the wound into the matrix, said absorbable matrix being located between the wound and the cover[[.]];

wherein the absorbable matrix comprises a first absorbable portion having a first rate of absorption of the tissue into the first absorbable portion and a second absorbable portion having a second rate of absorption of the tissue into the second absorbable portion, the first rate of absorption being different than the second rate of absorption.

2. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the first rate of absorption is greater than the second rate of absorption, and the absorbable matrix is positioned in the wound such that the first absorbable portion is generally adjacent to the deepest portion of the wound and the second absorbable portion is generally closer to the cover than the first absorbable portion ~~is comprised of more than one type of absorbent material, said materials having different rates of absorption~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the appliance further comprises ~~seal is comprised of~~ an adhesive material on at least a portion of the cover, the

adhesive material being adapted to at least secure a portion the ~~wound~~ cover to the tissue surrounding the wound.

4. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the cover comprises ~~is comprised of~~ a temperature-sensitive material configured such that a user or practitioner can ~~to provide for~~ monitor[[ing]] the temperature at the site of the wound by monitoring the appearance of the cover.

5. (Currently Amended) An appliance for administering a reduced pressure treatment to a wound, comprising:

a cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and adapted to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound;

~~a seal adapted to seal the cover to tissue surrounding the wound; and~~

an absorbable matrix adapted to encourage growth of the tissue in the area of the wound into the matrix, said absorbable matrix being located between the wound and the cover; and

a segment of tubing embedded within the absorbable matrix[[.]];

wherein the absorbable matrix comprises a plurality of layers with at least a lower layer and a higher layer, the lower layer having a higher rate of absorption than a rate of absorption of the higher layer.

6. (Currently Amended) An appliance for monitoring pressure during treatment of any body part of a patient, comprising[[:]] ~~(a)~~ a cover adapted to cover and enclose the body part being treated and adapted to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the body part being treated, wherein the cover comprises~~includes~~ ~~pressure monitoring~~ means for ~~to~~ monitoring the level of the pressure at the site of the body part being treated~~; and~~

~~(b) a seal adapted to seal the cover to tissue surrounding the body part being treated~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 6, wherein the appliance further comprises ~~seal is comprised of~~ an adhesive material on at least a portion of the cover, the adhesive material being adapted to at least secure a portion the cover to the tissue surrounding the wound.

8. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 6, wherein the ~~pressure monitoring~~ means for monitoring the level of the pressure at the site of the body part being treated comprises ~~is comprised of~~ a plurality of protrusions supported by ~~within~~ the cover, the protrusions being configured to displace inwardly as the reduced pressure between the cover and the wound increases such that the amount of inward displacement of the protrusions ~~above the remaining surface of the cover decreases~~ increases as the reduced pressure ~~in the volume beneath~~ between the cover and the wound ~~cover~~ increases.

9. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 6, wherein the ~~pressure monitoring~~ means for monitoring the level of the pressure at the site of the body part being treated comprises ~~is comprised of~~ a plurality of protrusions within the cover, the protrusions being configured to ~~such that the protrusions are~~ displace[[d]] in an increasing amount away from the remaining surface of the cover as the level of reduced pressure ~~in the volume beneath~~ between the cover and the wound ~~cover~~ increases.

10. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 8[[9]], wherein the protrusions are in the shape of hills or bumps.~~"hills" or "bumps."~~

11. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 8[[9]], wherein the protrusions are in the shape of a bellows.

12. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 8[[9]], wherein the protrusions have a color different from the color of the remaining surface of the cover, or a different shade of the same color as the shade of the color on the remaining surface of the cover, and wherein the color or the shade of the color changes as the protrusions are displaced away from the remaining surface of the cover.

13. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 8[[9]], further comprising sound means, wherein the sound means produce an audible sound as the protrusions are displaced away from the remaining surface of the cover.

14. (Currently Amended) An appliance for administering a reduced pressure treatment to a wound, comprising:

~~(a)~~ a cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and adapted to maintain reduced pressure ~~at the site of~~ between the cover and the wound[[,]]; and

~~wherein the cover includes~~ a pressure monitor[[ing]] supported by the cover, ~~means to monitor the pressure at the site of the wound~~;

wherein the pressure monitor is configured to provide a visual indication of the level of reduced pressure between the cover and the wound such that a visual inspection of the appearance of the pressure monitor provides an indication of the level of reduced pressure between the cover and the wound.

~~(b) a seal adapted to seal the cover to tissue surrounding the wound; and~~

~~(c) reduced pressure supply means for connection to a source of suction, said reduced pressure supply means cooperating with the cover to supply the reduced pressure beneath the cover.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 14, wherein the appliance further comprises ~~seal is comprised of~~ an adhesive material on at least a portion of the cover, the adhesive material being adapted to at least secure a portion the cover to the tissue surrounding the wound.

16. (Original) The appliance of Claim 14, further comprising a packing material adapted to prevent overgrowth of wound tissue, the packing material being located between the wound and the cover.

17. (Original) The appliance of Claim 14, further comprising an absorbable matrix adapted to encourage growth of tissue in the area of the wound into the matrix, the matrix being located between the wound and the cover.

18. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 14, wherein the pressure monitor[[ing]] ~~means~~ comprises one or more ~~is comprised of a plurality of~~ protrusions supported by ~~within~~ the cover, each protrusion being configured to move between at least an expanded state and a compressed state, wherein each protrusion is configured to move toward the compressed state ~~such that the amount of displacement of the protrusions above the remaining surface of the cover decreases~~ as the level of reduced pressure ~~in the volume beneath~~ between the cover and the ~~wound~~ cover increases.

19. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 14, wherein the pressure monitor[[ing]] comprises one or more ~~means is comprised of a plurality of~~ protrusions supported by ~~within~~ the cover, each protrusion being configured to ~~such that the protrusions are~~

displace[[d]] in an increasing amount toward the woundaway from the remaining surface of the cover as the level of reduced pressure in the volume beneath the between the cover and the wound cover increases.

20. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 19, wherein each the protrusion[[s]] is are in the shape of a hill or bump."hills" or "bumps."

21. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 19, wherein each the protrusion[[s]] is are in the shape of a bellows.

22. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 19, wherein each the protrusion[[s]] has have a color different from the color of the remaining surface of the cover, or a different shade of the same color as the shade of the color on the remaining surface of the cover, and wherein the color or the shade of the color changes as the protrusion[[s]] is are displaced away from the remaining surface of the cover.

23. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 19, further comprising sound means, wherein the sound means produces an audible sound as the protrusion[[s]] is are displaced away from the remaining surface of the cover.

24. (Currently Amended) An appliance for administering a reduced pressure treatment to a wound, comprising:

(a) a cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and adapted to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound; and

(b) a seal adapted to seal the cover to tissue surrounding the wound;

(c) reduced pressure supply means for connection to a source of suction, said reduced pressure supply means cooperating with the cover to supply the reduced pressure beneath the cover; and

(d) a temperature monitor supported by the cover measuring means to monitor the temperature of tissue at and surrounding the wound; wherein

the temperature monitor is configured to provide a visual indication of the temperature of the wound such that a visual inspection of the appearance of the temperature monitor provides an indication of the temperature of the wound.

25. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 24, wherein the appliance further comprises seal is comprised of an adhesive material on at least a portion of the cover, the

adhesive material being adapted to at least secure a portion the cover to the tissue surrounding the wound.

26. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 24, wherein the temperature ~~measuring means~~ monitor comprises ~~is comprised of~~ one or more layers of temperature-sensitive material ~~being~~ located between the cover and the wound.

27. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 26, wherein one of the one or more layers ~~layer~~ of temperature-sensitive material ~~is located between the cover and the wound, such layer being comprised of a material sensitive to changing temperature so that the material~~ is configured to change[[s]] from one color to another color [[(]]or from one shade to another shade of the same color[[)]] as the temperature of the wound changes~~such material changes~~.

28. (Original) The appliance of Claim 27, wherein the temperature-sensitive material is attached to a surface of the cover so that the cover and the temperature-sensitive material comprise a single integrated unit.

29. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 24, further comprising ~~wherein the temperature measuring means is comprised of~~ one or more temperature measuring devices located above the cover, ~~or in any portion of the volume~~ between the cover and the site of the wound, or ~~the temperature measuring device or devices being embedded in~~ within the cover.

30. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 29, further comprising an alarm system comprising:

~~(a)~~ a data processor operably attached to the one or more temperature measuring ~~device or~~ devices; and

~~(b)~~ an alarm device that is operably connected to the data processor, wherein the alarm device provides an alarm signal when the temperature measured by any temperature sensing device exceeds or is lower than a predetermined value.

31. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 30~~29~~, further comprising a temperature display and recording device that is operably connected to the data processor.

32. (Currently Amended/Withdrawn) An apparatus for treating a wound comprising:

~~(a)~~ a vacuum system adapted to produce a reduced pressure;

~~(b)~~ a collection system that is operably connected to the vacuum system, and

~~(c)~~ a reduced pressure appliance operably connected with the collection system adapted to apply the reduced pressure to the wound, the appliance comprising:

~~(i)~~ a cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and adapted to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound;

~~(ii) a seal adapted to seal the cover to tissue surrounding the wound;~~

~~(iii)~~ reduced pressure supply means for connection with the vacuum system adapted to supply the reduced pressure within the cover to the wound; and

~~(iv)~~ an absorbable matrix to prevent overgrowth of wound tissue[[,]];

wherein the absorbable matrix is~~being~~ located between the wound and the cover[[.]] and comprises a first absorbable portion having a first rate of absorption of the tissue into the first absorbable portion and a second absorbable portion having a second rate of absorption of the tissue into the second absorbable portion, the first rate of absorption being different than the second rate of absorption.

33. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the reduced pressure is from about 2 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure to about 7 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure.

34. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the reduced pressure supply means comprises a length of tubing, and further comprising a flotation valve within the container for blocking the tubing when a predetermined amount of fluid is collected within the container.

35. (Currently Amended/Withdrawn) An apparatus for treating a wound comprising:

~~(a)~~ a vacuum system adapted to produce a reduced pressure;

~~(b)~~ a collection system that is operably connected to the vacuum system; and

~~(c)~~ a reduced pressure appliance operably connected with the vacuum system adapted to apply the reduced pressure to the wound, the appliance comprising:

~~(i)~~ a cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and adapted to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound, wherein the cover comprises~~includes~~ ~~pressure monitoring~~ means for ~~to~~ monitoring the level of the pressure at the wound;

~~(ii) a seal adapted to seal the cover to tissue surrounding the wound~~; and

~~(iii)~~ reduced pressure supply means for connection with the vacuum system adapted to supply the reduced pressure within the cover to the wound.

36. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the reduced pressure is from about 2 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure to about 7 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure.

37. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the reduced pressure supply means comprises a length of tubing, and further comprising a flotation valve within the container for blocking the tubing when a predetermined amount of fluid is collected within the container.

38. (Currently Amended/Withdrawn) An apparatus for treating a wound comprising:

~~(a)~~ a vacuum system adapted to produce a reduced pressure;

~~(b)~~ a collection system that is operably connected to the vacuum system; and

~~(c)~~ a reduced pressure appliance operably connected with the vacuum system adapted to apply the reduced pressure to the wound, the appliance comprising:

~~(i)~~ a cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and adapted to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound;

~~(ii) a seal adapted to seal the cover to tissue surrounding the wound;~~

~~(iii)~~ reduced pressure supply means for connection with the vacuum system adapted to supply the reduced pressure within the cover to the wound; and

~~(iv)~~ a temperature monitor supported by the cover ~~measuring means to monitor the temperature of tissue at and surrounding the site of the wound~~;

wherein the temperature monitor is configured to provide a visual indication of the temperature of the wound such that a visual inspection of the appearance of the temperature monitor provides an indication of the temperature of the wound.

39. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the reduced pressure is from about 2 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure to about 7 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure.

40. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the reduced pressure supply means comprises a length of tubing, and further comprising a flotation valve within the container for blocking the tubing when a predetermined amount of fluid is collected within the container.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Canceled)

43. (Canceled)

44. (Canceled)

45. (Canceled)

46. (Canceled)

47. (Canceled)

48. (Cancelled)

49. (Cancelled)

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently Amended) An appliance for administering a reduced pressure treatment to a wound, comprising:

a cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and adapted to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound;

a port for supplying reduced pressure within said cover;

~~a seal adapted to seal the cover to tissue surrounding the wound; and~~

a[[n]] first absorbable matrix located between the cover and the wound and adapted to encourage growth of the tissue adjacent to the first absorbable matrix ~~in the area of the wound~~ into the first absorbable matrix; and

a second absorbable matrix located between the cover and the wound and adapted to encourage growth of the tissue adjacent to the second absorbable matrix into the second absorbable matrix; wherein

the first absorbable matrix has a first rate of absorption of the tissue into the first absorbable matrix and the second absorbable matrix has a second rate of absorption of the tissue into the second absorbable matrix; and

the first rate of absorption is different than the second rate of absorption.

~~said absorbable matrix being located between the wound and the cover~~.

54. (Previously presented) The appliance of Claim 53, further comprising a pressure monitor.

55. (Previously presented) The appliance of Claim 53, further comprising a temperature monitor.

56. (Previously presented) The appliance of Claim 53, further comprising a source of suction.

57. (New) The appliance of Claim 1, further comprising a conduit configured to communicate with a source of reduced pressure and the cover so as to transfer the reduced pressure supplied by the source of reduced pressure to the cover.

58. (New) The appliance of Claim 1, further comprising a third absorbable portion having a third rate of absorption of the tissue into the third absorbable portion, the third rate of absorption being different than the first rate of absorption and the second rate of absorption.

59. (New) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the first absorbable portion substantially surrounds the second absorbable portion.

60. (New) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the cover comprises a material that is configured to change appearance when the temperature at the site of the wound changes.

61. (New) The appliance of Claim 14, wherein the pressure monitor and the cover are formed so that the pressure monitor is integral with the cover.

62. (New) The appliance of Claim 14, further comprising a conduit comprising a first portion configured to communicate with a source of reduced pressure and comprising a second portion configured to communicate with the cover so that the conduit can transfer the reduced pressure supplied by the source of reduced pressure to the cover.

63. (New) The appliance of Claim 24, further comprising a conduit comprising a first portion configured to communicate with a source of reduced pressure and comprising a second portion configured to communicate with the cover so that the conduit can transfer the reduced pressure supplied by the source of reduced pressure to the cover.

64. (New) The appliance of Claim 24, wherein the temperature monitor and the cover are formed so that the temperature monitor is integral with the cover.

65. (New) The appliance of Claim 53, wherein the second absorbable matrix is closer to the cover and has a lower rate of absorption than that of the first absorbable matrix.